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Yonkers Green Policy Task Force News Blast

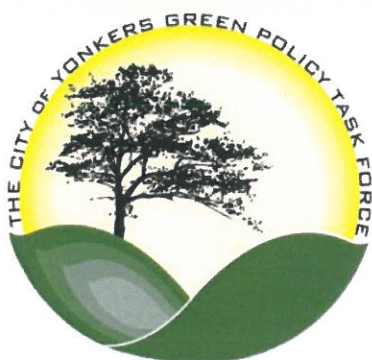
The Next GPTF Meeting is
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Sign Up

SIGN-UP!

Quick Links

The Next GPTF Meeting is Wed., Nov. 18 at 6:30 p.m.



GPTF@YONKERS.NY.GOV
914.377.6067

Please be advised that a [Green Policy Task Force](#) Meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, Nov. 18 at 6:30 p.m. in the Conference Room, Yonkers City Hall, 4th Floor. Our guest will be the new chairperson of the Yonkers Land Conservancy, Theresa Boin.

The following items will be on the Agenda:

1. Recycling
 - School Meeting Update
2. Transportation
 - Anti-idling day press conference discussion
 - Bus grant
3. Energy
 - Implementation of Empower Program
 - LEED/Energy Star Update

Any additional items that may properly come before this Committee.

Popping the Question: Real Man on the Street Interview



This issue's man-on-the-street question asked, "If granted one wish for the environment, what would it be?"

Believe it or not, we ran into Malcolm who was featured in [our last issue](#) complaining about people littering. We guess that means he never applied for the job as a street sweeper. We said hello, complimented his shoes and moved on.

"An environmental wish, huh?" said a man who gave his name as Donald Clarkson as he approached the train station. "I guess that would be for all companies, like GM, who knowingly polluted the river and the land, to pay up so we can start cleaning up once and for all."

Missy Cleary, an area college student, paused to ponder her response.

"This is like wining the lottery," she said. "There are so many issues, but I guess my top one is deforestation-- it is destroying the world on so many levels. I mean it's one thing for a small farmer to cut down trees to make room for his pastures, but it's quite another to do slash and burn farming which takes the most trees of any practice, even for palm oil plantations."

We liked Missy's answer and invited her to come to our next GPTF meeting.

"Why you be all worried about the environment when so many people don't have work?" asked a gentleman relaxing by the Ella Fitzgerald statue. "I say feed all these people's families from all these fancy restaurants where folks pay more to eat a big fat steak than you have to buy groceries. Do that."

Now there's a thought, Mr.

The last responder had a terrific answer. (Yes, we saved the best for last.)

"That's very simple," said Anita Diamant on her way into the Riverfront Library. "I would wish for another wish each day! That would mean every building would be LEED certified. Every piece of fruit and vegetable would be organic and locally grown. Every car would run on vegetable oil or alternative fuel. Solar panels would replace electric lines. What a world it could be!"

Hopefully we will all be around to find out!

Is it Art or is it Wind?

Check out [Quinnipiac College's](#) "wind garden," an installation of 25 sleek upright cylindrical turbines that are expected to generate about 32,000 kilowatt hours of electricity a year - roughly the equivalent of lighting one floor of the campus's five-level 2,000-car parking garage.

What's more, the turbines are free of propellers and their objectionable whooshing noise, making them an attractive energy-producing alternative that doubles as a sculpture garden.



Perfect for institutional settings!

Great Documentary Film Screening



For most, a typical day at the office involves clicking away at a computer keyboard under bright florescent lighting for nine hour stretches at a time while trying not to get caught on Facebook. (You know who you are!)

For [Christopher Swain](#), it meant donning a wetsuit to brave whitewater rapids, sewage spills, snapping turtles, hydroelectric dams, homeland security patrols, and PCBs to swim the entire length of the Hudson River as a way to raise awareness of environmental issues affecting us.

The resulting documentary film, "Swim For The River" will be presented by the Yonkers Riverfront Library for free at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 5 followed by a Q&A with Swain himself.

For further information, call the library at 914- 337-1500.

Planning Ahead

A five-part series of lectures on sustainability issues concerning food and agriculture, local farming, the Hudson River, and energy will be offered by the [Westchester Land Trust](#) starting in December.

Here's the lineup which will take you into April so grab your Google calendar or a pen and paper and get writing.

Brains vs. Brawn: The Future of Water -- John Cronin, director and chief executive officer of the Beacon Institute for Rivers and Estuaries; former Hudson Riverkeeper. 7 p.m., Monday, Dec. 14 at Warner Library, Tarrytown.



Slow Food, Good Land -- Josh Viertel, executive director of Slow Food USA at 7 p.m., Jan. 28, 2010 at Sarah Lawrence College, Bronxville.

The Annual Leon Levy Environmental Symposium- - How the Greenmarket Saved the Hudson Valley. Hear from Barry Benepe, co-founder of the New York City Greenmarkets at 3 p.m. on March 7 at Jewish Family Congregation, South Salem.

No Farms, No Food/No Farmers, No Food -- A panel discussion featuring local farmers at 3 p.m. on March 28 at St. Matthew's Church, Bedford Village.

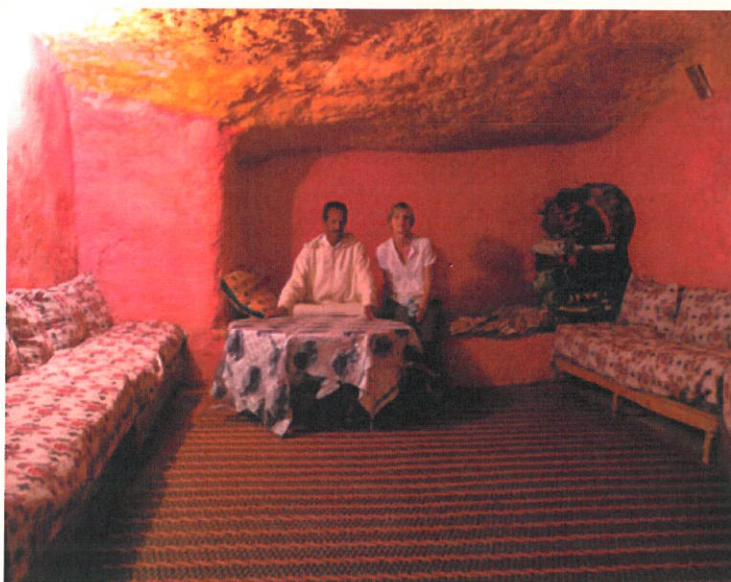
The Sustainable Future-- Adam Zellner, president of Greener by Design, New Brunswick, NJ at

7 p.m. on April 29 in Rye. (Precise location to be announced.)

The suggested donation is \$15 per lecture, or \$50 for all five. All proceeds will go to support the organization's land preservation work throughout the county.

Call 914-241-6346 x24 to reserve your spot.

Tip of the Eblast



If you love looking at pictures of innovative green home designs, check out this website, [The Daily Green](#), to see modern cave dwellings, green modular homes and homes and offices made from shipping containers. (Yes, shipping containers--those big metal boxes used to transport grain from America's heartland, lead laden toys from China, gas guzzling cars from Detroit, and more are now being used by architects and green designers who are using the strong, cheap boxes as building blocks.)

Got Holiday?

Come to Beczak Environmental Center's holiday workshop from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 21 to make your own beeswax candles and other nature crafts for the lucky people on your list.

A mere five bucks will get you in the door. Not bad, Virginia!

Registration is required. Call Dorene at 914- 377-1900 x 13, 35 Alexander Street, Yonkers.



This eblast is provided by the [City of Yonkers Green Policy Task Force](#). Its members research and submit potential "green" legislative initiatives to the City Council; work on potential quality-of-life improvements for the Yonkers community; apply for environmental grants; and foster educational outreach for Yonkers students as well as the community-at-large. Their public meetings are held on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. on the 4th floor of City Hall.

If you know of others in the environmental community who would like to receive this news or

attend meetings, please email laura.fahrenthold@yonkersny.gov

From: Council President Chuck Lesnick with Chairman Bob Walters and Coordinator Laura Fahrenthold; District 1 Councilmember Pat McDow with Margaret Setterholm; District 2 Majority Leader Sandy Annabi with Nortrud Spero; District 3 Councilmember Joan Gronowski with Loretta Miraglia; District 4 Minority Leader Liam J. McLaughlin with Terry Joshi; District 5 Councilmember John Murtagh with Molly Roffman; District 6 Councilmember Dee Barbato with Mel Goldstein; Administration's Appointee Joe D'Lando.



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